

Amendments to the claims:

1. (previously presented) A plant comprising a recombinant nucleic acid that encodes a polypeptide comprising a constitutively-active kinase domain of a mitogen-activated protein kinase kinase kinase (MAPKKK) or a kinase domain thereof, wherein said nucleic acid is expressed in said plant under the control of a promoter that is functional in a plant cell.
2. (previously presented) The plant of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a kinase domain which is obtained from a fungus.
3. (previously presented) The plant of claim, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a kinase domain which is obtained from an animal.
4. (previously presented) The plant of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid comprises a kinase domain which is obtained from a plant.
5. (previously presented) The plant of claim 1, wherein said nucleic acid consists essentially of said kinase domain.
6. (original) The plant of claim 1, wherein said plant is a dicot.
7. (original) The plant of claim 1, wherein said plant is a monocot.
8. (previously presented) A transgenic seed from the plant of claim 1.
9. (previously presented) A transgenic cell from the plant of claim 1.

10. (previously presented) A vector comprising a promoter functional in plant cells operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising a constitutively-active MAPKKK polypeptide or kinase domain thereof.
11. (previously presented) The vector of claim 10, wherein said vector comprises a nucleic acid encoding MAPKKK kinase domain
12. (original) The vector of claim 11, wherein said kinase domain is obtained from a plant MAPKKK.
13. (original) A cell comprising the vector of claim 10.
14. (original) The cell of claim 13, wherein said cell is a plant cell.
15. (new) The plant of claim 1 wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that is substantial identity to SEQ ID NO: 7, 9, 11, 15, or 19.
16. (new) The vector of claim 10, wherein said nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that is substantial identity to SEQ ID NO: 7, 9, 11, 15, or 19.